

# **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

## **PROGRAM UPDATE -- 15 JUNE 2000**

All text changes from the previous 1 April 2000 edition are highlighted in **bold** letters

### **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **A. CORPS HEADQUARTERS (HQUSACE) ORGANIZATION**

<p><u>Secretary of the Army</u></p> <p><u>Asst. Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)</u></p> <p><u>Commander, Chief of Engineers</u></p> <p><u>Deputy Commander for Civil Works</u></p> <p><u>Chief, Operations Division</u></p> <p><u>Chief, Natural Resources Mgmt. (NRM) Br.</u></p>	<p><u>Louis Caldera</u></p> <p><u>Joseph W. Westphal, Ph.D.</u></p> <p><u>LTG Joe N. Ballard (HQUSACE)</u></p> <p><u>BG Hans Van Winkle (CECW)</u></p> <p><u>Charles M. Hess (CECW-O)</u></p> <p><u>Darrell E. Lewis (CECW-ON)</u></p>
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*This paper provides an update on key functions and issues effecting the Corps Natural Resources/Recreation Programs. Information is subject to change between editions of this update paper. E-mail your comments to Stephen B. Austin (HQUSACE – CECW-ON).*

## **B. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM) AWARD WINNERS**

1999 Project of the Year – Wappapello Lake, St. Louis District, Mississippi Valley Division

1999 NRM Employee of the Year – Mr. Jeff Knack, Park Ranger, Eufaula Lake, Tulsa District, Southwestern Division

1999 Interpreter of the Year – Mr. Craig Lykins, Park Ranger, Chittenden Locks, Seattle District, Northwestern Division

1999 American Recreation Coalition's Recreation Legion Award – Mr. Darrell Lewis, Chief, Natural Resources Management Branch, HQUSACE

1999 National Society of Park Resources' William Pen Mott, Jr. Award of Excellence – Mr. David Wahus, Natural Resources Management Branch, HQUSACE

Congratulations to our 1999 award winners! Remember, all Corps NRM team members are eligible for the NRM Employee of the Year Award and all Corps-administered projects which are operated and maintained by the Natural Resources Management element are eligible for the Chief of Engineer's Project of the Year Award. The winners of these two awards are also eligible for consideration of similar Department of the Army natural resource awards. The general authority for these awards is provided in ER 672-1-18. A detailed memorandum from Headquarters, Natural Resources Management Branch (CECW-O) to each Major Subordinate Command (MSC - Division Office) is forwarded by early January of each year, containing the award nomination criteria, procedures and point of contact. The Chief of Engineers, or his delegate presents award plaques. The awards are presented at the Senior Leadership Conference held in August of each year.

**The 2000 winners will be announced in July.**

## **C. TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS IN HEADQUARTERS**

Note: There are no temporary assignments currently in CECW-ON (either the Career Assignment Program, a five-month tour-of-duty appointment, or other shorter-term assignments). We have no indication as to when temporary assignments will resume in CECW-ON.

## **D. CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

A Natural Resources Management Career Development Committee was formed in 1989 to explore and chart courses of action on a number of training and employment issues within the Natural Resources program. Attachment B is a current listing of committee members and your division representative. In 1994, the committee published the *Career Development Guide for Civil Works Natural Resources Management Team Members*" (EP 690-2-2). This guide identifies training opportunities and career ladders and should help all NRM employees explore and plan their career goals. This document is scheduled to be updated in FY 01.

The committee's current focus is the development of a delivery system designed to provide up to date training and career opportunities to the NRM team. The delivery system will make maximum use of the World Wide Web and electronic mail. Additionally, the committee is currently "fleshing out" an outline for the comprehensive training system that may be used for the basis of revolutionary methods of training. The system would be national in scope to insure consistency, outcome based and, to the degree possible and practical, exportable.

The committee is also developing an interactive, self-directed, computer based training course (*Safe Self*) that will cover the necessary tactical communication skills to partially meet the new Visitor Assistance Program training requirements contained in EC 1130-2-213, *Visitor Assistance Training*. This training tool will also be available to non-citation authority employees (project secretaries, maintenance employees, real estate and regulatory personnel, etc.) and project service contract employees. **The**

training course will be beta tested at several field locations during the last week in June and is scheduled for Corps-wide distribution in late summer 2000.

**E. NATIONAL RECREATION LAKES STUDY COMMISSION (NRLS)**

The Commission was created by Public Law 104-333 to “review the current and anticipated demand for recreational opportunities at federally-managed manmade lakes and reservoirs” and “to develop alternatives for enhanced recreational use of such facilities.” The Commission, appointed by the President, published their report “Reservoirs of Opportunity” in June 1999.

Two copies of the Executive Summary have been sent to each division, each district and each lake manager in the Corps. The Executive Summary and the report are available on the Commission’s web page ([www.doi.gov/nrls/](http://www.doi.gov/nrls/)) or by writing to National Recreation Lakes Study, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 320 SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**As a direct result of the Commission's work, a bill entitled *National Recreation Lakes Act* (H.R. 4299) was introduced by Congressman Deal of Georgia on 13 April 2000. Similar legislation is expected to be introduced in the Senate in the near future.**

**F. FEDERAL LAKES RECREATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

In response to one of the recommendations of the NRLS Commission, the Federal Lakes Recreation Leadership Council was established on 28 October 1999. The Council membership consists of the agency/bureau heads of the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Tennessee Valley Authority. LTG Ballard and Commissioner Eluid Martinez, Bureau of Reclamation, were elected Co-Chairs of the Council.

The purpose of the Council is to coordinate the implementations of the Commission recommendations and provide interagency coordination in the development of policies that provide an environment for success in Federal lake recreation management. A three-year plan action plan for implementing the NRLS Commission recommendations has been developed.

**G. NRM / RECREATION RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

The Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and specifically the Environmental Laboratory at the Waterways Experiment Station is no longer printing copies of the reports of their efforts. Instead they are posted on their publications web site. To read the latest version of RECNOTES (Nov 99), and all the RECNOTES ever published, go to <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/elpubs/recnotes.html>

For access to all of the Environmental Laboratory publications, go to <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/t2info.html>

**II. RECREATION PROGRAMS SECTION**

**Note: Dave Wahus, Chief, Recreation Program Section, retired on 3 June 2000. As a result, several significant changes, staffing, and program responsibilities within the Natural Resources Management Branch are being considered. More information on these changes will be provided as decisions are made.**

## **A. RECREATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Corps of Engineers is the second largest Federal provider of outdoor recreation, second only to the Forest Service. Approximately 21% of federally hosted outdoor recreation occurs at Corps projects (on less than 2% of the Federal lands). The Corps hosted 360 million visitors in 1999. We have 4,340 recreation areas on 456 lakes and waterways reporting recreation use. 57% of the recreation areas are operated by the Corps and 43% are leased out to others for operation and maintenance.

In 1994, over \$12 billion was spent by visitors engaged in recreation at Corps projects, resulting in \$5 billion in employee income and over 187,000 jobs in industries directly supplying goods and services to Corps visitors. Direct economic output associated with Corps visitor spending represents 0.1 per cent of the \$4.2 trillion U.S. economy, and 0.13 per cent of all jobs in the United States. Secondary effects of the Corps visitor spending accounted for an additional \$15 billion in employee income and 410,000 jobs. The total effect of visitor spending in 1994 accounted for 0.4 per cent of employee income and 0.5 per cent of jobs in the United States.

## **B. RECREATION MODERNIZATION PROGRAM**

The President's FY 01 Budget includes \$27,000,000 for the Construction, General, account to support the modernization of Corps of Engineers managed recreation areas. This is the first year of five-year \$330,000,000 program to modernize about 225 Corps managed recreation areas. The \$27,000,000 will modernize seventeen Corps managed recreation areas.

The purpose of the Recreation Modernization Program is to meet the needs of today's recreation users at Corps managed recreation areas, by improving facility functionality and protecting the natural resources that draw people to our areas. **This will include meeting the needs of the various ethnic groups that make up today's diverse population.** Modernization with state of the art materials and designs can reduce the cost of future maintenance, as well as eliminate much of the costly maintenance backlog. Modernization would also enhance visitor willingness to pay user fees to improve the self-sustaining posture of the Corps recreation program.

The Army Corps of Engineers hosts 208 million visitors annually at Corps operated recreation areas and is the Nation's leading provider of water-based recreation. Visitation to Corps recreation sites is expected to continue to grow in the future. Visitors are attracted to the water and natural resources surrounding the lakes.

Most of the facilities at Corps projects were constructed in 1960's and 70's and were designed to serve the needs of the recreating public at that time. Visitor needs have changed significantly from that period. For example, tents and tent trailers have evolved to large travel trailers or motor homes, making many of the Corps facilities obsolete.

Funding for the maintenance of recreation facilities has been limited in the past decade. The result is that visitors to Corps lakes are faced with dilapidated recreation facilities and inadequate levels of service that do not meet Corps customer service standards. The combination of heavy use, scaled back maintenance, and changes in visitor needs have caused significant deterioration in customer service and the natural resource base that draws visitors to the lakes.

This situation impairs the ability of managers to protect the resource and provide the level of service being sought by the recreating American public. Corps recreation facilities need to be modernized to provide our customers with safe facilities that meet their needs and the level of service they expect.

### **C. RECREATION FACILITIES STANDARDS TASK FORCE**

The modernization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed recreation areas has been identified as a priority by the Chief of Engineers. To ensure Corps wide consistency, standards are needed for recreation facilities and levels of service.

A task force (see **Appendix J**), chaired by Mike Miller, Chief of Operations, Little Rock District, has been charged with assisting the Natural Resources Management Branch in the development of such standards. The objective is to develop a band of acceptability for both overnight and day use recreation facilities and levels of service (between a minimum and maximum level) that can be applied to determine modernization needs of all Corps managed recreation areas. That information can then be used to develop plans and budgets for the modernization of recreation areas.

### **D. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

In 1999 over **70,000** volunteers contributed over **1.2** million hours of work with an estimated value of **\$13.5** million. During the last several years, the Corps has taken the following initiatives in expanding the use of volunteers and supplemental labor sources:

- The Volunteer Regulation (ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 10) was revised to allow more program flexibility. Revised regulation allows volunteers to operate vehicles and vessels and to collect fees or handle government funds.
- The Volunteer Coordinator's Handbook (EP 1130-2-429) was published on 30 April 1993 to assist volunteer program coordinators in establishing and operating successful volunteer programs. The manual provides guidance on developing a comprehensive volunteer management plan.
- A national volunteer brochure ("Volunteer For America's Environment"; EP 1130-2-433) was distributed in 1994 to help promote volunteerism throughout the Corps.
- The Corps Volunteer Clearinghouse opened in Nashville on 3 January 1994 and serves as a national point of contact for individuals and groups interested in volunteering at Corps projects and offices. The Clearinghouse has a toll-free telephone "hot-line" (1-800-VOL-TEER) and address. Callers receive Corps volunteer information to assist them in making decision on where to volunteer. The Clearinghouse also has a web page. Projects can advertise specific volunteer job opportunities on the page and interested volunteers can apply on-line to the advertised positions. The Clearinghouse is designed to supplement, not replace the outstanding work that our field offices have accomplished in encouraging volunteerism at our projects. Over 200 projects are listed as volunteer sources in the Clearinghouse - is yours? Check with your district office to be included in the clearinghouse.

### **E. NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

The Corps is a major player in *National Public Lands Day* (NPLD) - a one-day nationwide celebration of volunteer service on public lands. This year, NPLD will occur at over 200 sites on Saturday, 23 September 2000. Last year, 23 Corps projects attracted over 35% of all the volunteers to NPLD sites with an estimated value of service at 1.7 M. **Thirty-seven lakes have registered to participate in this year's NPLD.** For further information contact your NRM Division/District Volunteer Program POC or Patti Pride of NEETF at 202-833-

## **F. PARK RANGER/MANAGER UNIFORM PROGRAM**

Each district has a NRM Uniform Program Coordinator to assist uniform wearers with day-to-day uniform concerns/problems. Know your representative -- he/she is your advocate on matters concerning the uniform program. Your ideas and suggestions for program improvement should be directed to your district coordinator who, in turn, will forward all appropriate suggestions to the NRM Uniform Committee for consideration. Each division has a representative on the Uniform Committee (see Attachment C for membership list). The committee is responsible for addressing employee concerns that impact the program on a national basis and for forwarding appropriate comments to HQUSACE for consideration and possible adoption.

The committee has been responsible for many recent program enhancements including the following new (or improved) items: **black pullover sweater, ball caps, tie tack, maternity items**, vest w/collar, rain pant, shorts, cotton-blended work shirts, softer fabric for the duty shirt and a **new fit pattern for the female dress trousers (being introduced this summer)**. Contact your District Uniform Coordinator or Uniform Committee representative for more details.

**The Deputy Commander for Civil Works eliminated the NRM Class A (Park Manager) uniform (effective for 30 September 2000). Specific details are included in the 7 April 2000 memorandum from the Deputy Commander. After 30 September 2000, the Class A uniform may no longer be worn by anyone. The Class B (Park Ranger) uniform may be worn by Park/Resource Managers, NRM district office employees (on a intermittent basis) and certain project administrative employees (as determined by the District Commander) in accordance with the policy stipulated in the 7 April memorandum. This action does not affect Corps Park Rangers who are currently authorized to wear the Class B uniform.**

## **G. VISITOR ASSISTANCE**

VA Program Review. In 1995, the Natural Resources Management Branch initiated comprehensive review of the Visitor Assistance (VA) Program with specific emphasis on ranger and visitor safety. The review is supported by Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and Chief of Engineers offices.

A number of methods were used to identify and evaluate the current program including, a Corps-Wide Ranger/Manager Conference, a VA Program survey to all NRM employees, an independent review of five districts by the Corps Audit Office, and a review of other agency programs. A seven-member review committee, consisting primarily of rangers and managers coordinated this effort and, in September 1995, submitted a report of formal recommendations for HQ consideration/approval. The committee's report was submitted to HQ on 12 September 1995.

The report discussed various alternatives regarding level of authority and identified 54 recommendations in the major areas of training, equipment, park design/operations, and reporting. Many of the recommendations are within current Corps authority and policy (and are considered operational program improvements) which do not require a major shift in overall direction of the VA program. A copy of the report has been distributed to all divisions and districts.

ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 6, includes revised guidance covering about half of the report's 54 recommendations. The remaining recommendations required additional study by several task forces which were chartered by CECW-ON to address the issues of body armor, chemical aerosol spray, vehicles, training, Title 36 and reporting requirements.

**VA Training.** Numerous changes to the Visitor Assistance training program are included in Engineer Circular 1130-2-213, which was published on 1 October 1999. The EC requires new minimum standards for acquiring and maintaining citation authority. All Park Rangers are responsible for knowing and (through Corps management) meeting the new requirements of the Visitor Assistance training program contained in this EC.

**Pepper Spray.** A one-year test of Pepper Spray was conducted at the Belton-Stillhouse project in Texas. As a result of this test, HQUSACE is considering Southwestern Division's recommendation to grant Corps park rangers the authority to carry and use pepper spray for self defensive purposes. **The Deputy Commander for Civil Works has the test results and SWD/CECW-O's recommendations and will be making a decision in the near future.**

**VA Vehicles.** The revised policy on vehicle colors, markings and equipment was issued as EC 1130-2-212 on 23 April 1999. The EC can be found at [www.army.usace.mil/inet/functions/cw/rtnusace.htm](http://www.army.usace.mil/inet/functions/cw/rtnusace.htm).

**Title 36.** 36 CFR, Part 327 (Title 36) has been revised with a 5 May 2000 effective date (Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 88, page 26137). The initial first year supply of Title 36 brochures was distributed to all districts during the first week in June.

**Originating Agency Identifier Numbers (ORI).** CECW-ON is continuing to work with Tulsa District to gain Corps-access (on a state-by-state basis) into the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. We currently have access (have obtained ORI numbers) for Oklahoma (36 projects) and Kansas (17 projects). Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Pennsylvania are next. ORI numbers make it legal for rangers to call local law enforcement agencies for information on visitors/vehicles. We plan to obtain ORI numbers for all 42 states over the next three years. Further information on this process is included in an April 2000 memorandum from Charlie Hess. In this memo, each district was requested to provide a state-POC for this initiative.

## **H. WATER SAFETY**

A field level Water Safety Committee (see Attachment D) was formed in 1994 to assist CECW-ON in administering a centralized Corps-wide water safety program. The committee is developing water safety products to support Corps projects with their outstanding local water safety programs. The 1998 Water Safety catalog has been distributed. Ideas, comments, suggestions are always welcomed. Contact your division committee representative!

Corps offices can now place water safety product orders through the committee's new web site at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>. Products are available free-of-charge to offices on a first come, first serve basis. Please coordinate this action within your office to avoid placing duplicate orders.

## **I. VISITOR ESTIMATION REPORTING SYSTEM (VERS)**

The VERS is a family of microcomputer-based programs designed to estimate and report recreation use on

Corps projects. The estimates are based on surveys conducted at recreation areas where vehicle traffic is monitored by traffic counting devices. The system is comprised of the Direct Data Entry System (DDES), an entry and editing feature which allows entry of previously collected survey data to the program, the Load Factor Analysis component, and the Reporting component.

VERS is the Corps approved protocol for measuring visitor use at water resource development projects providing outdoor recreation opportunities. All projects are required to report their visitation to the NRMS (**soon to be OMBIL**) during the annual update using the VERS system. This is a mandatory requirement - to date approximately 90% of the projects are using VERS and 42% of the projects have not conducted visitor surveys. Everyone must use VERS to measure visitor use to improve the accuracy and credibility of our data.

The VERS reporting module is currently being modified to operate in a Windows environment. This version will be released following testing this **summer**.

#### **J. NATIONAL RECREATION RESERVATION SERVICE (NRRS)**

The NRRS is an interagency initiative designed to provide easy, state-of-the-art reservation services for Federal recreation sites and facilities across the country through a toll free telephone number, an Internet Website, and at local recreation sites. The toll free number became operational in October 1998; the Internet site went live in May 1999; and the local reservation program will be operating at many Corps parks this summer. The Forest Service and the Corps of Engineers are cooperating in the NRRS, using the contracted services of Reserve America, Inc. of Balston Spa, New York. Additional agencies are expected to join in the NRRS in the future. The NRRS replaces the Automated User Permit System (AUPS) in participating parks. AUPS will continue to be used in parks not participating in the NRRS.

See Attachment I for NRRS Team Members. **Visit the NRRS Team Home Website at <http://team-nrrs.usace.army.mil> for current information about the NRRS, to include news releases, NRRS At A Glance, ad slicks for local marketing, policy letters, and much more. The NRRS Operating Procedures Manual is also located at this website, which is a valuable information resource.**

#### **K. AUTOMATED USER PERMITS SYSTEM (AUPS)**

The AUPS has been an effective management tool in the administration and management of the user fee program. Using data collected from AUPS, characterizations may be made regarding visitor origins, length of stay, occupancy rates in campgrounds and at individual campsites, fees paid per campsite, average group size and Golden Age/Golden Access Passport use. This data can be used to evaluate future recreation area designs and rehabilitation projects, assess the most efficient allocation of project resources in campground management, and compare key variables across projects and recreation areas.

The NRRS will replace AUPS in campgrounds which use the service this year. When NRRS is fully implemented, all Class A campgrounds and a number of Class B and C campgrounds will use the service. At that time, AUPS will be used in campgrounds not using the NRRS as appropriate.

AUPS is currently undergoing a thorough review to assure its continued functionality in the Y2K environment. Any necessary modifications will be made and an updated version released to the field by this **summer**.



**L. RECREATION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (RMSP)**

The RMSP is the next generation version of the old Recreation Research Program (RRP). It is designed to provide comprehensive support to the recreation business function and includes activities previously conducted under the RRP, short term studies, technology transfer and technical support. The spring meeting of the RMSP was held **in April 2000** in Washington, D.C. Discussions included a review of the FY2000 program and proposals for the FY 2001 program. The fall RMSP meeting will be held on **1-3 November in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The membership in the Recreational Leadership Advisory Team is shown in Attachment F.**

**M. USER FEES**

**A total of \$35.9 million in user fees were deposited in the Corps account in the Treasury in FY 99. Additional FY 99 collections were not disbursed from the NRRS holding account into the Corps Treasury account last year, but will be deposited in FY 00.**

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 gave the Corps authority to retain recreation use fee collections in excess of 34 million for users in support of the recreation program. Implementing guidance will be developed and provided to the field this spring.

**A task force has been convened to conduct a comprehensive review of the recreation use fee policy as contained in ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 9. The task force will solicit field input this spring, as a first step in the effort. The task force recommendations are due to CECW-ON by mid October. See Appendix K for task for members. Please feel free to provide any comments to any of the task force members.**

**N. SECTION 208a TASK FORCE**

Section 208a of Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96) directed the Secretary of the Army to provide increased emphasis on, and opportunities for recreation at, water resources projects operated, maintained, or constructed by the Corps of Engineers and to transmit a report to Congress on specific measures taken. This field Task Force is charged with developing a strategy for identifying and implementing actions that place the Corps of Engineers in conformance with this Act. See Attachment G for a list of the Section 208a Task Force members. **The Task Force report is complete and has been sent to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for approval prior to submission to OMB and Congress.**

**O. CUSTOMER SURVEYS**

Recreation area "Customer Satisfaction Surveys" have been conducted at many projects since FY 96 using comments cards. Projects can analyze their own results using a data analysis program provided by Waterways Experiment Station (WES). This immediate feedback will be the first step in measuring the success of our program based on customer satisfaction. The goal is to receive feedback from our customers so that we may work to improve customer satisfaction and to receive input that will assist us in making the best use of our resources. Projects **should have received** an electronic version of the comment card for local reproduction and

use in 2000. **The field will be required to enter customer satisfaction data into OMBIL when that system is deployed.**

**P. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NRMS)**

The NRMS is a data collection and reporting system which has been in place since the late 1970s. Although the NRMS will be replaced by OMBIL (see paragraph N below), one last update was done for the 1999 report year. The update was due to the National NRMS Database Manager on 16 February 2000.

**Q. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS INFORMATION LINK (OMBIL) - RECREATION COMPONENT**

OMBIL is an executive information system, ultimately residing on CEAP, and containing data regarding the Corps O&M business programs. It replaces the Natural Resources Management System (NRMS), as well as other data collection and maintenance systems currently in use. The information will be centrally available at all Corps levels, with the goal being to enter corporate data only once into a reporting and data collecting system. Training resources will be provided for data entry and retrieval. You may learn more about OMBIL by visiting the OMBIL Website at <http://ombil.usace.army.mil>. The Recreation component of OMBIL will be deployed nationwide in FY 00.

**District and Division POCs have been designated for the recreation component of OMBIL. A User's Group, consisting of division, district and project representatives, will be established to provide support and assistance to the program.**

Note: The Natural Resources component of OMBIL is discussed in Section III (Natural Resources Management Section), paragraph G

**R. CHALLENGE PARTNERSHIPS**

Section 225 of WRDA 92 authorized the Secretary of the Army to enter into cooperative agreements with non-Federal public and private entities to provide for operation and/or management and development of recreation facilities and natural resources at water resource development projects where such facilities are being maintained at full Federal expense.

The program is intended to provide increased leveraging of available appropriated funds for recreation and natural resources management. The Corps may accept contributions of funds, materials and services in conjunction with this program. ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12, provides guidance for implementing this program.

There appears to be considerable confusion in the field about how this program may be implemented. Much of the confusion has centered on the name of the program, challenge "cost-sharing". Many people who have worked with the Corps Recreation Cost Sharing program in the past are confused by the requirements of that program and the requirements of the Challenge Cost Sharing program. We intend to change the name of the Challenge Cost Sharing Program to **Challenge Partnership Program**. This change will be accomplished through a change to ER 1130-2-500.

While Corps regulations authorize the use of the Challenge Partnership Program, specifics on how the

program should be implemented have not been included in Corps guidance. We plan to establish a task force shortly to review the program and recommend changes. The mission of this task force is to develop procedures and provide examples of how this program can be executed effectively at the field level.

We have also clarified guidance contained in Corps Budget EC which should legitimize and increase field participation in the program.

## **S. ACCESSIBILITY**

The Natural Resources Management Branch in Headquarters has been developing policy and guidance for a Universal Accessibility Program, including an inventory of all Corps facilities and the degree to which facilities must be modified to meet the desired goal. Funding for the modification of recreation facilities to meet accessibility goals has been and will continue to be programmed through the normal O&M budget process. The Universal Accessibility Task Force has delivered their report with recommended policy and guidance for the program.

The Regulatory Negotiations Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Areas reached consensus and made recommendations to the Access Board on accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered recreational facilities and developed outdoor areas covered by Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act. The Access Board accepted the committee's recommendations and will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the near future. You may visit the Access Board's website at [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov) for additional information. Due to competing work priorities, CECW-ON will not address the accessibility program in FY 2000.

## **T. USE OF NON-FEDERAL PRISON LABOR**

EC 2230-2-211, Community Work Programs, was published on 15 Apr 99. This circular establishes the policy on the use of community work programs to perform work at civil works water resource projects. Specifically, it provides for the use of state and local inmate labor by civil works projects where the Army has the authority to accept voluntary contributions in the form of services from state and local governments. The EC can be found at [www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/rtnusace.htm](http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/rtnusace.htm)

## **U. RECREATION PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

In response to the Government Performance Results Act of 1993 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed program performance measures. The goal of the results-oriented performance measures is to gauge the achievements of the Civil Works program. Results oriented performance measures help identify if Civil Works products and services are effective and if they are efficiently produced. These measures are to be eventually tied to the budget/allocation process.

The three corporate goals for the recreation program are: 1) To provide outdoor recreation opportunities in an effective and efficient manner; 2) To provide continued outdoor recreation opportunities to meet the needs of present and future generations; and 3) To provide a safe and healthful outdoor recreation environment for customers and the Corps workforce.

### **FY 99 R Recreation Performance Measures for O&M Budget Submittal**

1. **PROGRAM GOAL:** To provide outdoor recreation opportunities in an effective and

efficient manner.

**Measure:** Revenues from Recreation User Fees

**Definition:** Actual recreation user fee dollar change from previous year.

**Goal:** Increase of \$2.0 million

2. **PROGRAM GOAL:** To provide continued outdoor recreation opportunities to meet the needs of present and future generations.

**Measure:** Customer satisfaction with quality of facilities and services.

**Definition:** Extent of customer satisfaction w/ Corps-managed rec facilities and services.

**Goal:** 90% of customers rating facilities and services as acceptable or better for the price.

### **III. LAND MANAGEMENT SECTION**

#### **A. INTERPRETIVE SERVICES AND OUTREACH PROGRAM (ISOP)**

The ISOP is a management tool to be used by everyone. It is one of the best public relations items we have at our disposal. The success of the interpretive program is due to all of the individuals who believe in the importance of the interpretive services program in achieving our management goals. To be truly successful, we must solicit middle management's understanding and endorsement. Interpretation is not fluff that can be easily cut out of our budgets, but rather, it is an essential part of our mission.

The Great Outdoors Fun Book was developed in support of ISOP and continues to be very popular. Vicksburg District is continuing to handle printing efforts, and consolidates all orders for periodic printing of the Fun Book. Since taking on the task of coordinating printing efforts, the Vicksburg District has done an exceptional job of assuring the ordering process is completed smoothly for the many districts who wish to purchase copies. Julie Marcy is the point of contact for ordering copies of the Fun Book. To find out when the next consolidated printing will occur, and/or to place an order, please call Julie Marcy, the point of contact for ordering copies of the Fun Book, at 601-631-5302; FAX is 601-631-7133.

#### **B. VISITOR CENTER INITIATIVE**

The Deputy Commander (MG Fuhrman) has approved the Visitor Center Initiative which will significantly modify our centers to improve the delivery of the Corps message through modern interactive exhibits.

The strategy paper for this action included the following wording: *"The Corps Vision Statement includes "revolutionizing effectiveness" as a goal. Specifically the goal statement is: "dramatic improvement in performance and customer satisfaction will be achieved through best business practices, bold process reengineering and innovative use of technology". We proposed to apply that goal to the entire Corps system of visitor centers. First we will develop and obtain approval of a clear lay version of the Corps Vision and incorporate it into a public message. Sixty type A and B visitor centers and some of the 242 type C centers will be significantly modified to improve the delivery of the Corps message with modern interactive exhibits. (There are 7 type A regional centers, 53 type B project centers, and 242 type C centers ranging from brochure racks to centers with full exhibits.) At selected key visitor centers, we will place a "Command*

*Brief” exhibit that describes the Corps contribution to the Nation. Regional and local project exhibits will be developed locally and replace current outdated exhibits. We will not just install new exhibits, but provide attractive exhibits that will provide “hands on” interactive learning experiences that are both entertaining and educational.”*

To accomplish the specific tasks, we will establish a multidiscipline field team with expertise in Public Affairs, Information Management, Budget and Finance, and Interpretation. Field team members will be selected for their creativity and on the ground successes in related activities. The team will be led by a project manager and will use qualified contractors as needed. The effort will be launched with a Chief of Engineers memorandum that will explain the initiative and provide overall direction and guidance. This guidance will be incorporated into the appropriate ER/EPs. The “Command Brief” will be developed by PAO and will be centrally funded. Budget guidance will provide a process for local funding of regional and local project exhibits.

A steering committee of HQUSACE staff from PAO, IM, CECW-ON, and CECW-B will provide oversight. This steering committee will be chaired by the representative from CECW-ON and will report, through the chain of command, to the Deputy Chief.

As more information becomes available on the Visitor Center Initiative, we will make it available.

#### **C. SIGN STANDARDS PROGRAM.**

St. Paul District is the Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Corps Sign Standards Program. The Director of the Sign Program MCX and National Sign Program Manager is Henrik Strandskov. Headquarters has retained policy responsibility for the program. The MCX works closely with the Sign Advisory Work Group, as stated in the Sign Standards MCX charter, a copy of which was distributed previously to all divisions and districts. The MCX is in the process of consolidating with the Waterway Signs MCX, also located in St. Paul. The combined MCX would provide expertise in engineering waterway sign construction and installation, as well as providing overall coordination for the Sign Standards Program.

The MCX and work group are currently working to update the Sign Standards Manual, EP 310-6a and 6b. At the same time, the *Sign Manager* software program is being updated to reflect the changes and will be in a Windows format. We estimate this effort will take at least nine months. See Attachment E --National Sign Advisory Work Group. The National Sign Program MCX now has it's own web page. The page is included on St. Paul District's website. So far the page only has a couple of features - a list of all the sign program managers and the most recent list of approved non-standard safety sign legends. There are also links to the MCX charter, Chapter 6 of ER 1130-2-500, the sign program's implementing regulation and EC 1110-2-288, *Standard Designs for Waterway Signs.* These are important resources for this program and should be a part of every sign program managers' references. An important goal for the future is to make the entire Sign Standards Manual available on the Internet through the HQUSACE Publication Library.

#### **D. SOUTH DAKOTA LAND TRANSFER**

The President signed Public Law (PL) 105-277 on 21 October 1998. Title VI of Division C of the PL is entitled Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, and State of South

Dakota Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Restoration, and it requires, among other things, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to transfer significant acreage to the State of South Dakota and to specific Tribes mentioned in the legislation. The legislation also establishes trust funds to cover the costs for the management of the transferred lands. The management funding can only be released after full capitalization of the trust funds by the Treasury Department, which is expected to take 8 to 9 years.

The State of South Dakota would very much like to obtain the lands in question prior to the capitalization of the trust funds. They have proposed a two-part effort. The first part involves a volunteer effort for the remainder of FY 00 that would allow them to have access to certain Corps operated areas in an effort to improve on the ground conditions there. The second part of their proposal involves leasing several recreation areas to them for a period of four years.

**The Omaha District, Northwestern Division, HQUSACE, ASA(CW), and Army General Counsel accepted this proposal.**

The Corps is also considering an administrative transfer of lands within the exterior boundaries of reservations to the Tribes from which the lands were obtained. This review effort is being lead by the Corps Real Estate Directorate and no time frame for completion of their work has been established.

#### **E. COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS**

Cooperating Associations are an opportunity for projects to form partnerships with communities and obtain goods and services. Associations can collect dues, sell educational publications and post cards on site, conduct programs and purchase food to reward volunteers.

If an association uses part of a building on a permanent basis, real estate must get involved in the drafting of the agreement and lease. Real Estate does not require a lease if the association holds primary activities off the government facility or they use a roll away cart. Cooperating associations are a good way to leverage our limited resources and we should use them where it makes sense. Currently the Corps has 21 Cooperating Associations in place. Headquarters is currently working with the Association of Partners for Public Lands (the umbrella organization for cooperating associations) to develop a relationship with them which will benefit all of our cooperating associations.

The Corps has established a new award intended to recognize outstanding contributions to interpretive and/or environmental education efforts of the Corps by a cooperating association. The award is called the Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships Award. Nominations have been solicited from the field. This award will become a regular part of the APPL biennial convention, thus, divisions, districts, and projects should be constantly on the lookout for outstanding examples to nominate every two years.

#### **F. RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE (RPI)**

The Recreation Partnerships Initiative (RPI) is designed to provide additional recreation opportunities and infrastructure at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects at minimal additional cost to the Federal Government through private sector involvement.

The contractor has completed the majority of his work on this effort. No private sector interest was found in any of the five sites that the Corps had to offer. Therefore, the contractor will complete his work within the next few months by developing a lessons learned document that will be useful in determining the future direction of this effort.

#### **G. OFFICE of NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS (ONAA)**

The Chief of Engineers has established an Office of Native American Affairs in HQUSACE. The office will come into being shortly following the HQUSACE move to the GAO building in **August** 2000. The ONAA will be responsible for all coordination with Native Americans, establishing policy, issuing guidance, and acting as a knowledge base for the Chief. The office will consist of 3-4 individuals who will work directly for the Chief of Engineers and will be housed in the Chief's executive office.

#### **H. LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION**

The route followed by the Lewis and Clark Expedition lies within eight Corps districts. Of the more than 5,000 miles of trail from Pittsburgh to the Pacific Ocean, the Corps directly or indirectly manages nearly 4,700 river miles, over 3,700 miles of which lie in the Corps Northwestern Division (Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington). Because the Corps manages more of the trail than any other governmental entity, the Corps will play an important role during the bicentennial commemoration.

On October 1, 1998, the Corps was one of 14 Federal agencies to sign an MOU to collaborate in commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The purpose of the MOU was to establish a general framework for cooperation among the various agencies and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council. The cooperating agencies agree to help one another carry out activities related to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration, unify and coordinate planning efforts to ensure consistency and avoid duplication, and to assist other entities in doing the same. Work groups have been established at the field and Washington levels.

As a result of the interagency agreement and the Corps management responsibilities for such an extensive portion of the Lewis and Clark Expedition route, the Corps has chosen to establish a National Coordinator. Jean M. Nauss of the Northwestern Division has been designated as the Corps National Coordinator. In addition, several district POCs have also been established.

The Corps must accommodate the anticipated increased visitation with safety and minimal impact on the environment while providing information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the role of the U.S. Army during the historic era of westward expansion. With the Corps ever-shrinking Operation and Maintenance budget, this will be extremely difficult. The President's FY2001 Budget includes \$1,579,000 for the O&M account in support of the upcoming bicentennial. The 2001 budget also contains an unfunded capability of \$1,370,000 for additional activities to prepare for the commemoration. The Congress must now decide the degree of the Corps involvement in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration.

## **IV. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SECTION**

### **A. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM) ACTION PLAN**

The Natural Resources Management (NRM) Initiative Task Force was organized in 1992 to assist CECW-ON (Natural Resources Section) in the development of actions and appropriate guidance to help clarify the NRM Program mission and objectives. CECW-ON (Denise White and Darrell Lewis) were assisted by the task force membership (Jonathan Davis (CESAD), Paul Peloquin (CENWD, Don Weise (CESWF) and Bob Van Hoff (CELRL)) in developing an action plan of high priority actions to clarify and further natural resources stewardship concepts on Corps project lands and water. This work effort was termed NRM Initiative. The task force initially developed a NRM Action Plan, which included approximately eight major actions, which should be addressed by CECW-ON. By December, 1995 much progress had been made in undertaking those actions, particularly development/ approval of the NRM Mission Statement, update of sections of ER 1130-2-400 (see new ER/ EP 1130-2-540) to include the clarified stewardship responsibilities, the need for natural resources inventories, policy on protected species occurring on project lands, needs for Master Plans and OMPs, etc., and revision of budget EC feature cost codes to reflect natural resources focus priorities.

Ongoing efforts of the task force include the review and validation of the updated NRM action plan, participation in the larger team efforts such as Civil Works Environment (Natural Resources) performance measures development/refinement, and OMBIL (Operations and Maintenance Information Link) system modeling for natural resources.

### **B. RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ACTION PLAN**

On 7 June 1995, the President signed Executive Order 12962 addressing recreational fisheries. The Executive Order recognizes the social, cultural, and economic importance of recreational fisheries. Federal agencies have been directed to restore and enhance aquatic systems and improve recreational fishing access to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide to the extent permitted by law and where practical.

The Executive Order also established a National Recreational Fisheries Council responsible for developing a comprehensive Recreational Fisheries Resource Conservation Plan. The Conservation Plan establishes a five-year agenda for Federal agencies identified by the Council (the Corps is one of 24 agencies identified).

Each of the 24 Agencies was required to develop a specific plan to implement the Council Conservation Plan. The Corps plan mirrors the goals (implementation strategies) and desired results (outputs) of the Council Conservation Plan and also contains actions and field guidance to achieve the desired outputs. Those actions detail the steps the Corps will take to conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems and improve the sustainable productivity of recreational fisheries to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities.

The Corps is required to develop an annual report, due in March each year, for submittal to the Council concerning the status and accomplishments of those actions. The Corps plan contains guidance on reporting the number and types of actions taken to achieve the desired outputs in support of the reporting requirement. The annual reporting requirement provides the Corps with an opportunity to showcase its actions to support recreational fishing and improvements to aquatic habitat. The Corps provides approximately 33 percent of all recreational fishing within the United States on lakes over 10 acres.



### **C. ERGO (ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW GUIDE FOR OPERATIONS)**

ERGO, the Environmental Review Guide for Operations, is an environmental compliance review checklist. It is a self-assessment tool designed to determine strengths and weaknesses in complying with environmental laws and regulations. ERGO was initially implemented at Corps Civil Works, O&M General funded operating projects in FY 92 - FY 94.

Dedicated funding of nearly \$9,000,000, through FY 94 was provided by Headquarters to support implementation workshops and the completion of initial (Cycle I) ERGO assessments and corrective action plans, at operating projects. We successfully met our goals of completing initial assessments and actions plans during each fiscal year from FY 92- FY 94.

In September 1994, HQ directed the implementation of Cycle II ERGO external assessments and associated corrective action plans for O&M funded facilities. Cycle II was initiated in FY 95 and is to be completed by the end of FY 99. The HQ established goal for this period is to conduct external assessments and develop corrective action plans at 20 percent of all O&M funded facilities each year. The objective of Cycle II assessments are to maintain the achieved level of compliance, to assure that corrective actions taken have rectified problems and to determine if the Cycle I assessments were thorough.

### **D. NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN (NAWMP)**

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) is a U.S./Canada/Mexico strategy to restore declining waterfowl populations. The Corps joined Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in a cooperative agreement to review Corps projects to identify opportunities to help attain plan goals, and to exchange information with FWS.

A national database was created to track progress in meeting agreement provisions and provides a Corps-wide inventory of existing and potential wetlands habitat development or improvement sites. The results of the project review have been summarized in a Final Report, which was distributed to the field and FWS for their information and use. The report indicates that the Corps is responsible for over 3.5 million acres of habitat, which meets the NAWMP criteria of significant waterfowl use. Of those, more than 1.4 million acres are located within the five NAWMP, High Priority Areas of Major Concern. The Corps, at the end of 1992, was responsible for 8.8% of acreage (1.7 million acres) within NAWMP designated Joint Venture Areas.

Corps participation in NAWMP Joint Venture Implementation Plans is encouraged where appropriate and within Corps authority, to further the goals of the NAWMP. The Challenge Cost Share/Donations authority, and the Section 1135 (Ecosystem Restoration) authority should be pursued to expand opportunities.

### **E. PROJECT MODIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT (Sections 1135 and 206 Programs):**

#### **Program 1 - SECTION 1135 PROGRAM**

Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 initiated a demonstration program of modifications in the structures and operations of projects for the purpose of improving environmental quality. WRDA 90 converted the demonstration program to a permanent program.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) supports this cost share program which focuses on the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat resources. The Section 1135 program, with Construction General funding, offers us an opportunity to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and other fish and wildlife restoration proposals.

The Section 1135 Program is managed much like the Continuing Authorities Program. Proposals can be forwarded to the applicable division anytime through our Planning counterparts. Opportunities identified through the NAWMP, Recreational Fisheries Action Plan, aquatic habitat improvement projects, and cooperative effort with Fish and Wildlife Service are, in many cases, good candidates for implementation as Section 1135 projects. The program also provides opportunities for projects that meet the spirit of the Recreational Fisheries Action Plan.

For proposed projects the 1135 program also requires: a series of planning reports; a non-Federal government entity willing to pay **25** percent of the cost of the project; and, the non-Federal partner must be willing to assume all O&M cost as well as all rehabilitation cost. Each project is limited to \$5,000,000 and the program has a \$25,000,000 ceiling per year. Additional information can be found in EC 1105-2-214.

## **Program 2 - SECTION 206 PROGRAM**

Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, P.L. 104-303 provides authority to the Corps of Engineers to carry out an aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection project if the Assistant Secretary of the Army determines that the project will: improve the quality of the environment; is in the public interest; and, is cost effective.

Projects funded using the section 206 authority must be for the restoration of aquatic ecosystem structure and function. This will usually include manipulation of the hydrology in and along bodies of water, including wetlands and riparian areas. No relationship to an existing Corps project is required. Like the 1135 program, 206 proposals can be forwarded to the applicable division anytime through our Planning counterparts. For proposed projects the 206 program also requires: a series of planning reports; a non-Federal government entity willing to pay 35 percent of the cost of the project; and, the non-Federal partner must be willing to assume all O&M cost as well as all rehabilitation cost. Each project is limited to \$5,000,000 and the program has a \$25,000,000 ceiling per year. Additional information can be found in EC 1105-2-214.

## **F. WATCHABLE WILDLIFE**

The Watchable Wildlife program has been in place since December 1990, when the Army Corps of Engineers joined with other Federal land managing agencies and conservation organizations to promote wildlife viewing opportunities on Federal and State lands. There have been a variety of responses to this program within the Corps. Watchable Wildlife is an excellent opportunity to convey land stewardship ethics and biodiversity themes. The program is a natural extension of the new Interpretive Services and Outreach Program. Joe Holmberg, Sacramento District, serves as our point of contact for Watchable Wildlife issues.

## **G. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS INFORMATION LINK (OMBIL) - NATURAL RESOURCES COMPONENT**

The purpose of the OMBIL is to provide the data and information requirements for program and project management at all levels of the O&M community. The OMBIL is intended to increase effectiveness and efficiency in data management by using and linking present data management systems, standardizing terms and data elements, and

providing Corps-wide data distribution and access - to the same data. The Natural Resources business function work group is the mechanism by which the natural resources information requirements are being developed. This work group is participating in OMBIL efforts to model system functions (natural resources activities, actions, process and operations), functional relationships, and data information that support the systems integration, cross-business functions and Corps wide.

The Natural Resources workgroup identified data requirements for the Natural Resources Business Program using applicable laws, executive orders, regulations (particularly 1130-2-540), and Corps policy as guides. Development of the Natural Resources data input module followed. Included in the module are data input fields for data generated/ used in day-to-day management of the natural resources on project lands. These data may have been the subject of individual data calls, but have not previously been the subject of a systematic data retrieval system, such as NRMS. Potential users of the Natural Resources business information module were invited to review/comment on the preliminary module during January-February, 1999. Only a few comments were received during this preliminary review period.

Additional testing and revision of the OMBIL - Natural Resources component module is ongoing by members of the subject matter team and selected field representatives. Final deployment of the module is not yet scheduled. For more current updates on OMBIL, visit the web site <http://ombil.usace.army.mil>

#### **H. ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION RESEARCH PROGRAM (EMRRP)**

*Natural resources* management research needs are now addressed under the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Research Program (EMRRP). This research program, which falls under the broader Environmental Quality Research Area, is the consolidation/ realignment of several old research programs including: the old Environmental Impacts Research Program (EIRP); the natural resources components of the old NRRS (Natural Resources Research Program); and components of the Characterization and Restoration of Wetlands Research Program (CRWP) which were extracted and placed within EMRRP... all in an effort to assure R&D efforts address business program needs, eliminate redundancies, and provide more efficient and effective research and results.

Generally, the EMRRP objectives are to: address Corps business program environmental needs at an ecosystem/ watershed level; provide state-of-the-science methods and procedures to predict and analyze environmental impact and opportunities of Corps projects and activities; combine engineering and environmental solutions for ecosystem management and restoration; design effective/ efficient, user-oriented methods to restore and manage natural/ physical resources; and provide tools to assist field activities in meeting environmental mandates and performance measures.

Denise Y. White (CECW-ON), Cheryl Smith (CECW-PD), and Pete Juhle (CECW-EH-W) are the HQ EMRRP Program Monitors. The EMRRP Field Review Group, which assists the Research Program Monitors in identifying new research needs and evaluating ongoing research efforts, has members which represent three stovepipes of the Corps: Engineering, Operations-Natural Resources Management and Planning. Current members of the field review group from the natural resources stovepipes are: Julie Marcy (LMV), Don Weise (SWF), Paul Peloquin (NWD), Jonathan Davis (SAD). Other members include John Anderson (NWO), David Brandy (SAS), John Bruza (LMN), Meg Burns (NAB), Peter Doukas (NAD), Mike Harden (MVD), Marty Hathorn (SWF), Caroll Kleinhans (MVD), Dough Latka (NWD), Coleman Long (SAW), Tom Pullen (MVD), James Reese (NPD).

Your recommendations on the research needed to accomplish Natural Resources Business program functions are valued at any time. You may submit your documented research work unit proposals through your locally established process. Your proposal should document a field, need which can be satisfied only through research within

the scope of EMRRP. The research effort and its results must have benefits on at least a regional level...i.e. site specific research efforts will usually not be considered under this program. All future research conducted under the EMRRP, must have a proponent - a person(s) assigned to closely follow the research through its completion to assist in assuring the research remains targeted for anticipated results and products. Research work units of that are within the Corps priorities, that have national benefit and that support more than one Corps business function have the competitive advantage as proposed new work efforts under the EMRRP. General Investigation account funding supports this research program.

#### **I. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION**

The Chief of Engineers recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). Copies of the document were provided to Division and District office during last week of January, 1999. This MOU provides a framework for communication and cooperative activities to maintain/ enhance the productivity of wild turkeys and their natural habitat, consistent with other wildlife management goals on Corps lands; to maintain/enhance public wildlife viewing, hunting, and recreation opportunities on Corps lands; and to increase public understanding of the importance of the natural resource conservation necessary to restore and maintain wild turkey populations.

Where opportunities exist to further the goals of this MOU, field offices should seek to work with the appropriate NWTf point(s) of contact. Mr. Robert Abernathy, at the National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Building, Edgefield, South Carolina 29824-1510, phone: (803) 637-3106, will assist you in linking with the appropriate local individuals. Maximum use of the Corps Challenge Partnerships, Contributions, and Volunteers authorities is encouraged to accomplish efforts of mutual interest. Chapters 10-12 of Engineer Regulation 1130-2-500 provide details on the applicability of these authorities.

#### **J. FIRE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

Although fire is a natural part of our ecosystem, the Corps does not have a fire management training program in place. This shortfall hinders the Corps ability to meet the professional standards it subscribes to for accomplishing its natural resource stewardship goals and also increases the Corps liability concerning fire management. To address this concern, the Headquarters Operations Division-Natural Resources Branch has determined that a Fire Management Task Force is needed to gather and analyze data to assist in the development of an effective and efficient Corps fire management program. This task force will address fire management policy guidance, project fire management plans, and training and certification requirements. See Attachment H for a list of Fire Management Task Force Members.

#### **K. CIVIL WORKS ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL RESOURCES) PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

In response to the Government Performance Results Act of 1993 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started to develop program performance measures in FY 1995. The goal of the results-oriented performance measures is to gauge the achievements of the Civil Works program. Results oriented performance measures help identify if Civil Works products and services are effective and if they are efficiently produced. These measures are to be eventually tied to the budget/allocation process.

The Corps is developing its measures on four "Tier" levels. Tier I consist of senior executives that have

identified the 9 Civil Works business programs (e.g. navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, hydropower, regulatory, environment (includes natural resources) emergency management, support for others, recreation, water supply) to provide direction for measurement development. Tier II consists of headquarters and division business program specialist that are developing programmatic measures for each business program. Tiers III and IV are also developing measures for implementation at the district and project level respectively.

The Civil Works Environment (Natural Resources) business program goals and performance measures, with target implementation years, include:

GOAL: Corps mitigation outputs meet the requirements of authorizing legislation or relevant Corps decision document.

- . **Measure (FY 96 and continuing):** Percent of Corps administered **mitigation lands (acres)** meeting the requirements in the authorizing legislation or relevant Corps of Engineers decision document.

*Mitigation lands:* Mitigation lands are those lands on which mitigation measures are taken to compensate for adverse ecological impacts unavoidably caused by Corps projects or activities. For the performance measure, these lands are those authorized by Congress or approved by HQUSACE in a formally documented decision.

*Corps administered lands:* Corps lands either managed by the Corps, or lands licensed, permitted or leased from the Corps.

**Definition:** Number of designated Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) meeting mitigation requirements divided by the total number of designated Corps administered mitigation lands (acres).

**Demonstrates:** Status of Corps efforts to meet mitigation requirements.

**Unit of Output:** Acres.

**Start-up Target:** 70% of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) achieving Corps mitigation requirements.

**Data Source:** Operational Management Plans, Natural Resources Management System - data fields to be determined.

GOAL: Assist in the recovery of Federally listed species.

**Measure (revised for FY 98 and continuing)** Percent of Corps projects with potential to participate in the recovery of Federally listed species (with final Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)/ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recovery Plans in which the Corps is designated as an action agency) which are accomplishing the ascribed FWS/ NMFS Recovery Plan requirements.

**Definition:** The total number of *actions/ measures* taken (i.e. *opportunities* seized) as described, or in accordance with, the Final Recovery Plan for a Federally listed species (where Corps is indicated as action agency) divided by the total number of *opportunities* to participate in recovery of Federally listed species with final Recovery plans

(A *count of 1 opportunity* is a Corps project and its associated endangered species with a final Recovery Plan, which designates the Corps as an action agency. For example: Martins Fork Lake/ Gray Bat is *one*

opportunity; a second opportunity is Martins Fork Lake/ Indiana Bat - for a project total of 2 opportunities. *Any action(s)/ measure(s) undertaken or completed by the project for a specific species in accordance with the final recovery plan shall be considered in total as one action and given a value of 1.)*

**Demonstrates:** Corps accomplishment of its responsibilities in FWS/ NMFS Federally listed species Recovery Plans.

**Unit of Output:** Federally listed species recovery.

**Start-up Target:** Undertake or accomplish Recovery Plan requirements on 30% of the total Corps projects with potential to participate in those Recovery Plans for Federally listed species.

**Data Source:** FWS, NMFS, Initial field data call, Natural Resources Management System - data fields to be determined.

**L. FY 97- 99 CIVIL WORKS ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL RESOURCES)  
PERFORMANCE MEASURES RESULTS**

**Mitigation Measure** (see para. C above):

Performance Target (FY 97-99): 70% of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) achieving mitigation requirements.

<u>Performance Achieved:</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>
- Total acres designated as Corps administered mitigation acres:	1,105,637	1,109,063	*724,224
- Mitigation acres meeting requirements:	591,446	618,535	553,191
- Percent of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) achieving Corps mitigation requirements:	53%	56%	76%

\* Decrease in acreage due to reporting errors in prior years.

**Recovery Measure** (see para. C. above):

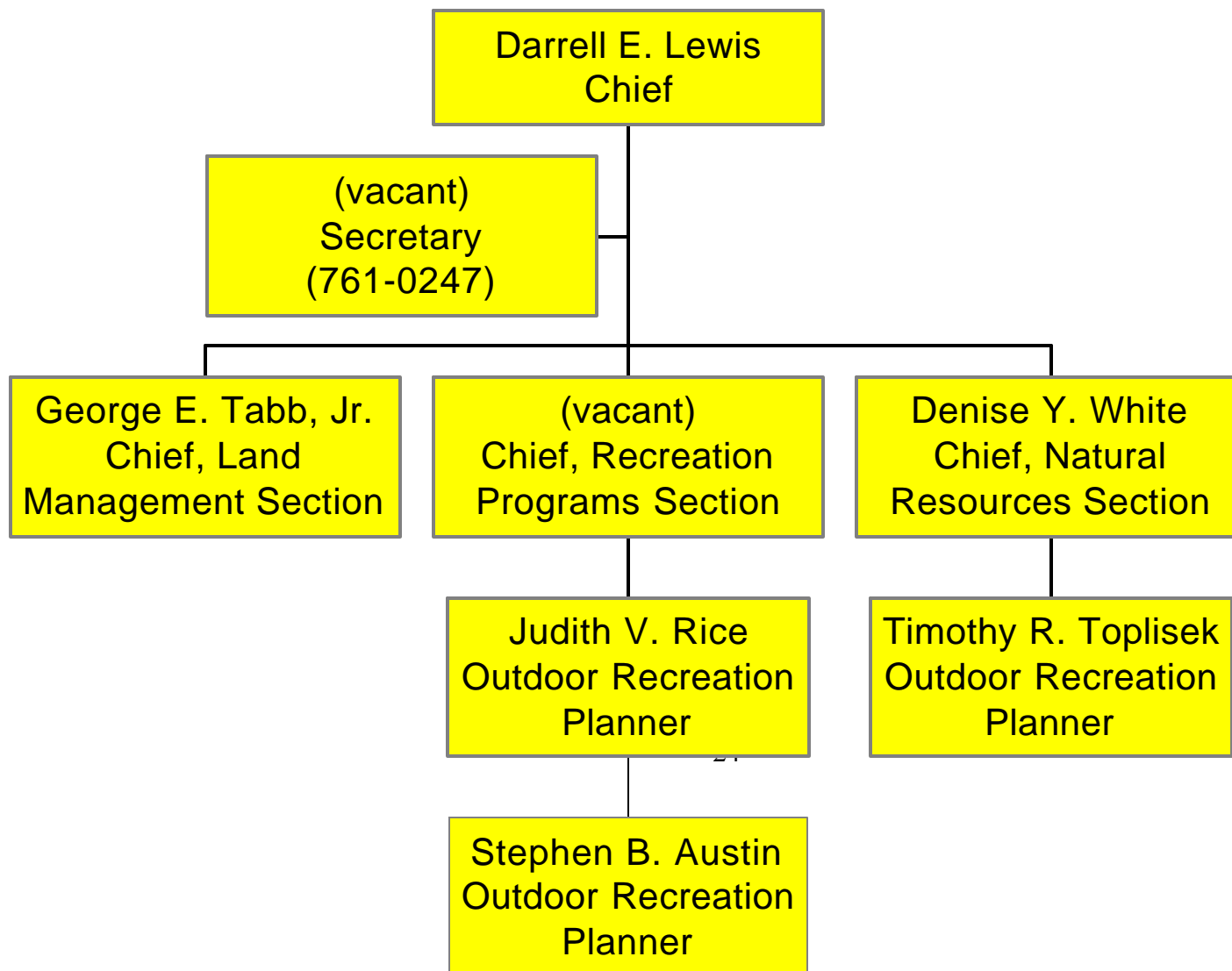
Performance Target (FY 99): Undertake or accomplish Recovery Plan requirements on 30% of the total Corps projects with the specified opportunity to participate in those Recovery Plans for Federally listed species.

<u>Performance Achieved:</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>
- Number of <i>opportunities</i> seized as described, or in accordance with, final Recovery Plan for a species	--	418	450
- Number of specified <i>opportunities</i> to participate in recovery of Federally listed species with final Recovery plans	--	465	484
- Percent of <i>opportunities</i> seized to assist in the recovery of a Federally listed species	--	90%	93%



ATTACHMENT A

# Natural Resources Management Branch





**ATTACHMENT B**

**NRM CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES**

**Member:**

**Representing:**

Dwight Beall  
814-658-3405 x 203

Chair, North Atlantic Division,  
Raystown Lake

Mike Cummings  
412-395-7206

Great Lakes and Ohio River  
Division

Roger Hayes  
314-331-8635

Mississippi Valley Division,

Greg Mollenkopf  
410-962-6017

North Atlantic Division,

Gary Pelton  
802-886-8111

North Atlantic Division

Craig Lykins  
206-789-2622

Northwestern Division,

vacant

South Atlantic Division,

Karen Wagner  
559-784-0215

South Pacific Division

Marilyn Jones  
417-334-4101

Southwestern Division

**ATTACHMENT C**

## **NRM UNIFORM PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

### **DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES**

**Member:**

**Representing:**

Jim Runkles  
541-374-4556

Chair, Northwestern Division  
Bonneville Lock and Dam

Lloyd (Dean) Bonifacio  
304-466-1234

Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers  
Division

Grafton Anding  
601-631-5153

Mississippi Valley Division

Will Rogers  
978-318-8305

North Atlantic Division

Lora Vacca  
816-532-0174

Northwestern Division (Missouri River  
Region)

Dawn Wiedmeier  
509-751-0241

Northwestern Division (North Pacific  
Region)

Sara Jernigan  
912-768-2516

South Atlantic Division

Jim Sandner  
916-557-5275

South Pacific Division

Susan Robinson  
817-978-4639

Southwestern Division

### **ATTACHMENT D**

## **NRM WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES**

<u>Member:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Lynda Nutt 509-527-7135	Chair
<b>Harry "Pete" O'Connell</b> <b>330-547-3081</b>	<b>Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers</b> <b>Division</b>
<b>Kevin Ewbank</b> <b>815-667-4054</b>	<b>Mississippi Valley Division</b>
Kathy Grim 610-376-6337	North Atlantic Division
Gary Foster 816-426-6816	Northwestern Division (Missouri River Region)
Joyce Dunning 208-476-1279	Northwestern Division (North Pacific Region)
Tim Rainey 770-945-9531	South Atlantic Division
<b>David Dutton</b> <b>505-465-0307</b>	<b>South Pacific Division</b>
<b>Emmitt Attaway</b> <b>409-596-1622</b>	<b>Southwestern Division</b>
Ed Evans / Stephen Foshee 615-736-7161	Public Affairs Representative
<b>Madeline Morgan</b> <b>817-978-2195</b>	<b>Safety Office Representative</b>
Rachel Garren 314-331-8624	Policy Advisor

### **ATTACHMENT E**

### **NATIONAL SIGN ADVISORY WORK GROUP**

<u>Member:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
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Debra Stokes, Chair and Software POC 504-862-1344	Mississippi Valley Division
Joe Holmberg 916-557-5281	South Pacific Division
David Johnson 412-639-9013	Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
Greg Mollenkopf 410-962-6017	North Atlantic Division
Dennis Wallace 417-745-6411	Northwestern Division
Terry Ramsey 804-738-6143	South Atlantic Division
Bill McCauley 214-767-2434	Southwestern Division
Karlissa Krombein 202-761-0027	Office of the Chief Counsel, Headquarters
Michael Kidby 202-761-8835	Dredging/Nav. Branch, Headquarters
Frank Trent 202-761-8600	Safety/Occupational Health, Headquarters
George Tabb 202-761-1791	NRM. Branch, Headquarters
Henrik Strandkov 651-290-5578	National Sign Program Manager St. Paul District

## **ATTACHMENT F**

### **RECREATION LEADERSHIP ADVISORY TEAM**

#### **Member:**

Tom Peek  
931-858-3125

Mike Loesch  
513-684-3192

Joe Sigrest

#### **Representing:**

Chair, Nashville District, Center Hill Lake

Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division

Mississippi Valley Division

601-634-5855	
Jimmy Carver 601-563-4571	Mississippi River Division
To Be Determined	North Atlantic Division (two positions)
Don Dunwoody 402-697-2536	Northwestern Division
Dan Troglin 503-808-4322	Northwestern Division
Mike Lee 808-438-3063	Pacific Ocean Division
Brad Keshlear 404-562-5134	South Atlantic Division
Sandra Campbell 706-856-0315	South Atlantic Division
Phil Turner 415-977-8058	South Pacific Division
Susan Shampine 505-342-3274	South Pacific Division
Elisa Pelliciotto 214-767-2435	Southwestern Division
John Marnell 918-669-7397	Southwestern Division

## **ATTACHMENT G**

### **SECTION 208a TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

<b><u>Member:</u></b>	<b><u>Location:</u></b>
Debby Chenoweth 541-374-8442	Chair, Northwestern Division, Portland District
Todd Yann 615-736-5115	Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division, Nashville District

Don Dunwoody  
402-697-2536

Northwestern Division

Bill Collins  
817-978-4644

Southwestern Division, Fort Worth District

Dave Grabensteder  
770-382-4700

Allatoona Lake, Mobile District

George Tabb  
202-761-1790

Headquarters

## **ATTACHMENT H**

### **NRM FIRE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

#### **DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES**

**Member:**

**Representing:**

Diane Parks  
206-764-3431

Chair

Randy Urich

Mississippi Valley Division

507-895-6341

Mark Rosenthal  
802-866-8111

North Atlantic Division

Billie Drewery  
208-476-1245

Northwestern Division

Tony Palmer  
601-327-2142

South Atlantic Division

Joe Holmberg  
916-557-5281

South Pacific Division

Keith Cook  
409-384-5716

Southwestern Division

## **ATTACHMENT I**

### **NATIONAL RECREATION RESERVATION SERVICE (NRRS)** **TEAM LEADERS**

Title:

Member:

Interagency Program Manager

Jack Ardner, Northwestern Division, ~~503-808-3886~~

Corps Program Manager, Contracting  
Officer's Technical Rep. and  
Interagency Inventory Team Leader

Greg Webb, Fort Worth District, 817-978-4641 x 1883

Interagency Marketing Team Leader

Lynne Beeson, J. Strom Thurmond Lake, Savannah Dist., 864-333-1142

Corps Marketing Team Leader

Brad Keshlear, South Atlantic Division, 404-562-5134

Corps Inventory Team Leader	Larry Bogue, Southwestern Division, 214-767-2432
Corps Field Support and Training Team Leader	Brad Keshlear, South Atlantic Division, 404-562-5134
Corps Site Mapping Team Leader	Greg Miller, Kansas City District, 816-983-3644
Corps Finance Team Leader	Mike Wolf, Northwestern Division, 505-808-3775
Interagency Technology Team Leader	Greg Bigelow, Northwestern Division, 503-808-5050
Professional Development Assignees	
Park Office POC	Ricky Raymond, Sam Rayburn Lake, Fort Worth Dist., 409-384-5716
Operating Procedures Manual, COTR Asst.	Mark Roderick, Rend Lake, St. Louis District, 618-724-2439
Computer Deployment	Mike Key, Oahe Lake, Omaha District, 605-224-5862 x 3234
Business Center POC	Mike Weber, Ft. Worth District, 254-879-2424
Park Office POC	Mike Cannow, Little Rock District, 870-425-2700

## **ATTACHMENT J**

### **RECREATION FACILITIES STANDARDS TASK FORCE**

#### **Member:**

**Mike Miller, Chair**

**Bonnie Bryson**

**Jim Davis**

**Jeff Rose**

**Roy Proffitt**

#### **Location:**

**Little Rock District**

**Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division**

**Northwestern Division**

**South Atlantic Division**

**South Pacific Division**



**John Marnell**

**Southwestern Division**

**Scott Jackson**

**Waterways Experiment Station**

**ATTACHMENT K**

**RECREATION USE FEES TASK FORCE**

**Mike Carey, Chair**

**Kansas City District**

**Sue Clevenstine**

**Rock Island District**

**Tommy Hipp**

**Mid-Brazos Project; CESWF**

**Terry Ramsey**

**John H. Kerr Project, CSAW**